

In the Claims:

1. ____ (amended) A Gripping collet, (10) for grasping a thread (F) during the preparation of a woven seam, the gripping collet being adapted to be arranged at the end of a draw-through gripper for grasping a thread during the preparation of a woven seam, and having a gripping collet body (12), a pneumatic cylinder (14) with an extendable and retractable piston (25) and a first and a second clamping element, the first and the second clamping element (20, 24) being able to be clamped against each other to grasp the thread (F) using the pneumatic cylinder, characterized in that the gripping collet comprising:

- the first clamping element has two cylinder surfaces at a distance from each other (20) and

— the second clamping element has a cylinder surface (24),

— the arrangement of the cylinder surfaces (20, 24) being such that the axes of the cylinder surfaces lie parallel to each other and essentially at right angles to the axis of the pneumatic cylinder (14) and, in the extended state of the pneumatic cylinder (14), the cylinder surface (24) of the second clamping element lies between the two cylinder surfaces (20) of the first clamping element.

— a gripping collet body;

a pneumatic cylinder attached at the gripping collet body and including a piston which is extendable and retractable along an axis;

a first clamping element having two cylinder surfaces arranged at a distance from each other, the axes of the cylinder surfaces being arranged parallel to each other and substantially at right-angles to the axis of the pneumatic cylinder; and

a second clamping element having a cylinder surface, the axis of the cylinder surface being arranged parallel to the axes of the cylinder surfaces of the first clamping element and substantially at right-angles to the axis of the pneumatic cylinder, in the extended state of the pneumatic cylinder, the

cylinder surface of the second clamping element lying between the two cylinder surfaces of the first clamping element;

wherein one of the first and second clamping elements being arranged at the gripping collet body and the other being arranged at the piston of the pneumatic cylinder whereby the first and the second clamping elements being adapted to be clamped against each other by the pneumatic cylinder to grasp the thread.

2. (amended) The Ggripping collet according to of claim 1, wherein the first clamping element (20) being the stationary one is arranged at the gripping collet body and the second clamping element (24) being the movable one is arranged at the piston.
3. (amended) The Ggripping collet according to of claim 1, or 2, wherein the pneumatic cylinder (14) worksing against the force of a spring (26), so that the gripping collet is opened in normal state.
4. (amended) The Ggripping collet according to of claim 3, wherein the gripping collet having comprises a control device for: by means of which firstly the two clamping elements (20, 24) can be moved against each other by the supply of compressed gas to close the gripping collet and grasp the thread (F); secondly by interrupting the supply of compressed gas the two clamping elements (20, 24) can be moved away from each other by spring force to open the gripping collet and release the thread and thirdly, the pressure of the compressed gas can be set so that the spring force is essentially compensated for and the two clamping elements (20, 24) press with an at most low force against a thread (F) arranged between them.

firstly controlling the supply of compressed gas to close the gripping collet and grasp the thread by moving the two clamping elements against each other;

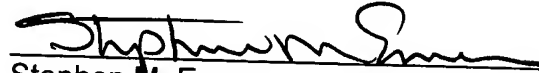
secondly interrupting the supply of compressed gas so that the two clamping elements will be moved away from each other by force of the spring to open the gripping collet and release the thread; and

thirdly setting the pressure of the compressed gas such that the spring force is essentially compensated for and the two clamping elements press with an at most low force against a thread arranged between them.

5. (amended) The ~~G~~gripping collet ~~according to one of claims 1, to 4,~~
~~with comprising~~ a pin (28) pointing in the direction of movement of the piston (25), which, together with the two clamping elements (20, 24) and the gripping collet body (12), surrounds a grasped thread (F) on all sides.

DATED this 22nd day of September 2003.

Respectfully submitted,
GRAYBEAL JACKSON HALEY LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen M. Evans", written over a horizontal line.

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